

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02
ICA-20 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10
IO-14 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 OPIC-06 STR-07
TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12
NEA-10 /160 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3852
INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS GENEVA 13485

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD PRODUCER/CONSUMER MEETING ON NATURAL
RUBBER, AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 7

REF: GENEVA 13357

1. AT THE FOURTH PREPARATORY MEETING ON NATURAL RUBBER
(NR) AUG. 28-SEPT. 7, CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS DEVELOPED A
WORKING DOCUMENT FOR THE NOV/DEC NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN NR
PRICE STABILIZATION AGREEMENT. WORKING TEXT CONTAINS
PRODUCER AND CONSUMER OPTIONS FOR VARIOUS POSSIBLE ELE-
MENTS OF AN AGREEMENT. THE DOCUMENT'S CHAPEAU STIPULATES
THAT ELEMENTS AND OPTIONS INCLUDED IN TEXT DO NOT REPRESENT
COMMITMENTS BY ANY GOVERNMENT AND THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS
RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MODIFY PROVISIONS OR TO
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INTRODUCE NEW TEXTS.

2. VIEWS OF THE EC AND JAPAN ON THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF
AN AGREEMENT APPEAR TO HAVE DEVELOPED LITTLE BEYOND THOSE
WHICH THEY SURFACED AT THE CONSUMER MEETINGS IN JUNE/JULY.
OTHER CONSUMERS ALSO OFFERED LITTLE NEW IN TERMS OF
SPECIFIC POSITIONS. SOVIETS REITERATED SUPPORT FOR A

3-400,000 TON BUFFER STOCK SUPPORTED BY OTHER UNSPECIFIED STABILIZATION MEASURES AND CALLED FOR MULTILATERAL PURCHASE AND SALES OBLIGATIONS IN TIMES OF SHORTAGE. CHINA SUPPORTED A 400,000 TON STOCK FULLY FINANCED BY THE COMMON FUND WHEN IT IS ESTABLISHED. THE CANADIANS CONTINUED TO KEEP OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF LEVY FINANCING.

3. IN A FINAL STATEMENT TO THE MEETING, PRODUCER SPOKESMAN, B. C. SEKHAR, OUTLINED THREE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF AN AGREEMENT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF PRODUCERS. THESE WERE (1) A FIXED FLOOR PRICE AS AN INDUCEMENT TO SMALLHOLDERS TO CONTINUE TO PRODUCE RUBBER, (2) DIRECT FINANCING OF THE AGREEMENT BY GOVERNMENTS, IMPLYING THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF LEVY FINANCING, AND (3) NO REQUIREMENT IN THE AGREEMENT FOR GOVERNMENTS TO CONSULT ON CHANGES IN DOMESTIC POLICIES AFFECTING RUBBER (OTHER THAN CONSULTATIONS ON U.S. STOCKPILE ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSAL

WHICH PRODUCERS SUPPORT). U.S. REP FOLLOWED WITH STATEMENT OUTLINING U.S. POSITION ON MAJOR ELEMENTS OF AN AGREEMENT AND DESCRIBING HOW THESE POSITIONS BENEFITED BOTH CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS.

4. DISCUSSION ON ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE WERE CURSORY AS GOVERNMENTS WERE NOT PREPARED TO TAKE POSITIONS ON ISSUES SUCH AS CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEES, ETC. DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS, MALAYSIANS LOBBIED

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FOR PETER LAI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE. IT WAS AGREED THAT A CHAIRMAN SHOULD BE APPOINTED BY OCTOBER 13 TO ALLOW HIM TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS. GOVERNMENTS ARE TO MAKE KNOWN THEIR NOMINEES THROUGH THEIR GENEVA-BASED REPRESENTATIVES. VANDEN HEUVEL

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